

CLAIMS**What is Claimed is:**

1. In a wireless communication system comprising a plurality of LAN radios utilizing IP packet communication, a method comprising the steps of:

- 5 a) providing each of a group of individuals with a LAN radio, wherein said group comprises a plurality of specific roles;
- b) assigning each LAN radio a role-based first multicast IP address corresponding to a specific role; and
- c) routing information between said plurality of LAN radios such that information intended for an individual acting in a specific role is identified by a first multicast IP address and only delivered to a first LAN radio having said first multicast IP address.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of assigning each LAN radio a first multicast IP address occurs when an individual using said first LAN radio logs in to the communication system.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said first multicast IP address is algorithmically assigned to said first LAN radio depending upon the role of said individual equipped with said first LAN radio within said group.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said group further comprises a plurality of specific subgroups, further comprising the steps of assigning a second multicast IP address corresponding to a first specific subgroup to at least said first LAN radio and routing communications between said plurality of LAN radios such that information intended for an individual acting in said first specific subgroups is identified by said second multicast IP address and only delivered to LAN radios having said second multicast IP address.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein said first multicast IP address is assigned to said first LAN radio depending upon the role of said individual equipped with said first LAN radio within said group and said second multicast IP address is assigned to said first LAN radio depending upon the specific subgroup within said group to which said individual equipped with said first LAN radio belongs.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said step of assigning said first and second multicast IP addresses to said first LAN radio is carried out by an algorithm using role and group membership information.

7. The method of Claim 5, wherein said step of assigning said first and second multicast IP addresses to said first LAN radio is carried out by a database using role and group membership information.

8. The method of Claim 5, wherein said group comprises a military organization.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of assigning a supplemental multicast IP address corresponding to a generic class to at least said first LAN radio and routing communications between said plurality of LAN radios such that information intended for an individual acting in said generic class is identified by said supplemental multicast IP address and only delivered to LAN radios having said supplemental multicast IP address.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein said supplemental multicast IP address is assigned to said first LAN radio when an individual using said first LAN radio logs in.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein said first LAN radio is assigned said supplemental multicast IP address subsequent to being assigned said first multicast address.

12. The method of Claim 4, further comprising the steps of assigning a supplemental multicast IP address corresponding to a generic class to at least said LAN radio and routing communications between said plurality of LAN radios such that information intended for an individual acting in said generic class is identified by said supplemental multicast IP address and only delivered to LAN radios having said supplemental multicast IP address.